



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>



WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: April 8, 2012

Number: 5

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR APRIL 8, 2012

Many producers across the Commonwealth continued with corn planting this week, although an anticipated drop in temperatures may have caused some to refrain from planting despite adequate air and soil temperatures. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0. The dry and windy weather has begun to take a toll as top soil moisture is decreasing. Frost late in the week forced produce growers to cover their crops, as well as, slowed the growth of pasture and hay land. The small grain crops seem to be heading or starting to head and with the chance of morning frost still likely, producers are worried that the cool temperatures may damage the crop.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 8, 2012	1	36	58	5
April 1, 2012	0	16	73	11
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 8, 2012	1	21	74	4
April 1, 2012	0	16	80	4

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	2	29	60	9
Livestock	0	3	23	60	14
Hay, Other	0	0	38	51	11
Hay, Alfalfa	0	0	35	50	15
Winter Wheat	0	2	18	65	15
Barley	0	2	22	64	12
Oats	0	0	20	79	1
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	35	34	31
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	97	3	0
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	100	0	0
Apples, All	0	1	94	5	0
Peaches	1	3	63	33	0
Grapes	0	11	35	54	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	22	6	7	11
Summer Potatoes	85	65	87	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 8, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 7	Mar. 1 to Apr. 7 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	43	83	33	57	5	398	185	0.02	5.80	1.20	10.63	-0.67
Norfolk	67	49	80	44	58	4	424	205	0.33	2.95	-1.96	7.42	-4.74
Richmond	70	43	86	38	57	4	428	224	0.01	2.52	-2.32	7.47	-3.84
Roanoke	74	46	81	34	60	7	423	NA	0.09	3.61	-1.07	7.51	-3.53
Wash/Dulles	66	38	77	30	52	3	334	NA	0.17	1.69	-2.64	5.78	-4.36

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Temperatures have been in the low 30's at night and in the 50-60's during the day.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

A dry week with slightly warmer than normal temperatures supported the abnormally early spring growth. Frost Thursday and Friday mornings caused spring produce growers to cover what crops they could, while exposed crops and fruit-bearing trees experienced some damage.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

We had two mornings of mid 30's and scattered frost - no damage known. The small grain crops that appeared to fair well over the warm winter months have not shown any sign of progressing for the spring. The small grains have no height and much of the grain is starting to head out. Most of the grains have been top-dressed so there is still time to improve. At this time it doesn't appear the small grain will be a bumper crop.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Most barley is headed and wheat is starting to head. Farmers are worried this is early for the season and the chance of frost is still high. Conditions are getting very dry!!

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore) The dry and windy weather has taken some of the moisture from the top soil. Small grain crops that fared a mild winter seem to be in a slow moving growth. The pastures

(Chesterfield Continued)

and hay look good at this time.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

It has been dry and is getting dryer with unceasing winds. We have had frost at my western Hanover home two nights in the last week. I do not think it has damaged any grain crops, but it is too soon to tell about fruit crops, as most everything was in bloom. The peaches are past bloom, apples are blooming and grapes are just setting leaves.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn planting continued at a rapid pace. There is a growing concern that a lack of topsoil moisture in some fields could result in uneven corn emergence. The small grain crop needs rain as the barley crop is pollinating and the wheat crop is starting to head. The small grain crop remains relatively pest free. A few aphids and cereal leaf beetle larvae were reported. Pasture and hay growth slowed this week due to cooler temperatures and soils moisture depletion.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

We missed some rains during the week. Small grains could use a shower as warm weather and windy conditions are taking a toll. Wheat has great yield potential and is clean from disease for the most part at this point. Producers are contemplating a fungicide application for late season diseases sometimes in the next couple of weeks. Corn planting is picking up momentum, but producers are concerned about cooler temperatures in the forecast. This also has wheat producers very concerned. Preparation for corn planting is the major activity of the week and preparation for vegetable planting is also gearing up.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.
(Southeastern continued)

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

I have already seen signs of over grazing in pastures. Remember to rotate animals, and if you have to, continue to supplement with hay or other sources of feed to prevent. Over grazed pastures have longer recovery times. Cool nights and some frost advisory can still be present - remember to cover veggies if already planted. Keep a close eye on the winter wheat. Cattle weights look good, keep close eye on pasture feed animals to make sure they are getting enough feed. Farmers continue to spread manure and till fields getting ready for this season's crops. Lots of manure samples have been brought to the Extension office to send off for testing. Some peach trees are starting to produce fruit already and strawberry plants are blooming. Early potato plants are growing good.

SOUTHEASTERN

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Corn planting has been more aggressive this past week. Wheat development is 2-3 weeks ahead of normal. We are hoping weather will cooperate from here on. Producers have been preparing fields for corn planting, completing machinery repairs and planning for fertilization and other crop seeding. Grass is coming along and cattle grazing are doing well.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

The corn crop is over 50% planted, with cotton next in line before peanuts and soybeans. Land preparation and burn down sprays are going out.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Occasional showers this week have dampened corn planting fever. Most farmers have held off planting but limited acres even though air and soil temperatures have been adequate this past week. Soil temperatures continue to be higher than normal, but air temperatures are expected to lower over the weekend and into next week. Farmers are holding their breath on barley and wheat that has reached boot stage or head emergence. Next week will be critical. Finding very few cereal leaf beetles in wheat.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Corn planters are rolling, trying to take advantage of good soil moisture and nice weather conditions. Strawberry farms are seeing a good amount of ripe berries, with the first farm opening for you pick last week. We are seeing head emergence in wheat fields throughout the city.



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